

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-41 (canceled)

42. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated peptide prepared by expressing an expression vector wherein said expression vector comprises a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10, said peptide being specifically immunoreactive with hepatitis E virus (HEV) antibodies.

43. (previously presented) The composition of claim 42, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

44. (previously presented) The composition of claim 42, wherein said peptide comprises a preparation for use as an immunoreactive.

45. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated peptide prepared by expressing an expression vector wherein said expression vector comprises a nucleic acid homologous to nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10; wherein a nucleic acid is homologous to another nucleic acid if either the two nucleic acids are capable of hybridizing using 2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS, at room temperature twice, 30 minutes each; then 2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS, 50°C once, 30 minutes; then 2 x SSC, room temperature twice, 10 minutes each; or where said nucleic acids contain at most about 30% basepair mismatches, said peptide being specifically immunoreactive with hepatitis E virus (HEV) antibodies.

46. (previously presented) The composition of claim 45, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented) The composition of claim 45, wherein said expression vector encodes the protein of SEQ ID NO:8.

49. (previously presented) The composition of claim 45, wherein said expression vector comprises a nucleic acid with at most about 30% base pair mismatches when compared to a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10.

50. (previously presented) The composition of claim 49, wherein said peptide further comprises an adjuvant.

51. (canceled)

52. (previously presented) The composition of claim 45, wherein said expression vector comprises a nucleic acid with 15-25% base pair mismatches when compared to a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10.

53. (previously presented) The composition of claim 45, wherein said expression vector comprises a nucleic acid with 5-15% base pair mismatches when compared to a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10.

54. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated peptide prepared by expressing an expression vector wherein said expression vector comprises a fragment of at least 30 nucleotides of a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10.

55. (previously presented) The composition of claim 54, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a fragment of at least 50 nucleotides of a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129

in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10.

56. (previously presented) The composition of claim 55, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

57. (canceled)

58. (previously presented) The composition of claim 54, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a fragment encoding about 30 amino acids of SEQ ID NO:8.

59. (previously presented) The composition of claim 54, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a fragment of about 100 base pairs of a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the sequence shown from base number 5147 through 7129 in SEQ ID NO:6 and the sequence shown from base number 5117 through 7096 in SEQ ID NO:10.

60. (previously presented) The composition of claim 59, wherein said peptide further comprises an adjuvant.

61. (canceled)